



# Missouri Enterprise

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Mission Statement: To make Missouri the best place to live, work, vacation and conduct business.

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Department of Economic Development

## Holdens promote Missouri in tour through China, Japan

Gov. Bob Holden and First Lady Lori Hauser Holden represented Missouri in a Far East tour September 21-October 2. The governor was joined by representatives of the World Trade Center Saint Louis, local business and government leaders, DED Director Kelvin Simmons, and DED's Division of Business Development and Trade Director David Seamon.

The governor met with several top government officials in China, including Vice Mayor Dongji Tang of Shanghai, Governor Baohua Liang of Jiangsu Province, Mayor Hongkun Jiang of Nanjing, and Governor Yunshi Ji of the Hebei Province - Missouri's sister state.

In his various meetings in the People's Republic of China, Gov. Holden announced plans to open a new state marketing office in Shanghai with the goal of helping Missouri companies gain access to one of the world's fastest growing markets.

The decision to open an office in Shanghai is one result of the Department of Economic Development recent comprehensive review of Missouri's foreign offices. DED wants to ensure the state is targeting markets with the greatest potential for Missouri businesses along with the possibility of investments in Missouri.

The new Missouri office in China is expected to open by the end of the year. While this will be the state's first presence in China, it is not the first in Asia. Missouri has had an office in Tokyo, Japan, for a number of years and also has an office in Seoul, South Korea.

Also while in China, the governor addressed audiences at the

Nanjing-St. Louis Economic Conference and Business Forum and the 25th anniversary celebration of the St. Louis-Nanjing Sister City relationship, and he spoke with students at Peking University.

On September 29, Gov. Holden gave the keynote address at the first Midwest-U.S. China Association conference, held in Beijing. The Midwest China Association is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization which aims to foster

*continued on page 3*

### Far East Facts

#### CHINA

- China is Missouri's 5th largest trading partner.
- The export of Missouri products into China increased 100 percent from 2002 to 2003.
- Over the past five years, trade has increased by nearly 400 percent.
- There are currently 29 companies with a major presence in Missouri doing business in China.
- Missouri has benefited from a Sister-State Relationship with Hebei Province, China since January 25, 1994.

#### JAPAN

- Japan is the 3rd largest foreign direct investor in Missouri.
- There are currently more than 50 Japanese-owned manufacturing companies in Missouri.
- Japan is Missouri's largest trading partner in the continent of Asia and our 3rd largest export partner over all.
- In 2003, Missouri exported more than \$419 million in goods to Japan alone, an increase of nearly 35 percent from the previous year.
- In the last five years, exports to Japan have increased by nearly 58 percent.
- Missouri has benefited from a Sister-State Relationship with Nagano Prefecture, Japan since April 26, 1964.



### inside

State of Employment 2

Women's Council Presentation 3

Workforce Conference Highlights 4

First MODESA approval 5

NEWSBRIEFS 6

## Missouri Community Service Commission awards Mini-Grants for youth-oriented community service projects

The Missouri Community Service Commission approved more than \$40,000 in grants through its Mini-Grant Program in October. The grants provide up to \$2,500 to support youth-led service projects to be completed by the end of the 2004-2005 school year.

Mini-grants provide federal resources from the Corporation for National and Community Service to fund service learning projects or community service projects that either provide youth, ages 5-25, with opportunities to serve within their communities or lead a service project that addresses a particular community need. Elementary, secondary or higher education institutions, government entities or not-for-profit organizations are eligible.

Programs that will receive funding for the 2004-2005 school year are:

**Branson** -- The Hiding Place Ministry, Inc. -- \$1,200  
**Cape Girardeau** -- Youth United Way -- \$900  
**Chillicothe** -- Chillicothe Middle School -- \$2,500  
**Columbia** -- University of Missouri Curators-- \$2,500  
**DeKalb** -- Buchanan County R-IV Schools -- \$2,500  
**Ironton** -- Arcadia Valley Schools-Key Club -- \$1,750  
**Kansas City** -- Center of Differentiated Education/Hickman Mills -- \$1,700; Northland Community Alliance -- \$1,500; Operation Breakthrough, Inc. -- \$1,583; Scaritt Elementary -- \$2,468; and The Historical Society of New Santa Fe -- \$1,105  
**Lebanon** -- Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce -- \$1,900; and University of Missouri Extension -- \$1,575  
**Marquand** -- Marquand Zion R-VI Beta Club -- \$2,150  
**Miller** -- Miller High School -- \$820  
**Potosi** -- Washington Co. Community Partnership -- \$1,372  
**St. Louis** -- Bevo Area Community Improvement Corp. -- \$528; Campus Kitchen at St. Louis University -- \$2,445; Faith Beyond Walls -- \$2,465; KUTO -- \$2,500; and Operation Food Search, Inc. -- \$2,450  
**Springfield** -- Ozarks Literacy Council -- \$2,322  
**Webb City** -- Webb City Middle School -- \$900



## 2004-2005 AmeriCorps State Grant Awards

The Missouri Community Service Commission announced the approval of its 2004-2005 AmeriCorps State Formula and Planning Grants in September. These grants will support 13 programs and 134 AmeriCorps members across the state.

The AmeriCorps State Competitive, AmeriCorps State Formula and Planning grants provide federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service for living allowances and program administration to program recipients. Programs for the 2004-2005 year will bring more than \$2.6 million in federal grant money into Missouri. More importantly, AmeriCorps members affiliated with these programs are slated to serve over 354,000 hours directed at solving local challenges in the areas of education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

Programs that will receive funding through the 2004-2005 AmeriCorps State Formula Grant are: American Red Cross, St. Louis -- \$62,000; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Boone County -- \$61,985; Butler County Community Resource Council -- \$77,500; Fulton 58 Public Schools -- \$92,478; Missouri Girls Town Foundation (Kingdom City) -- \$62,000; Missouri River Communities Network (Columbia) -- \$136,460; Nixa Learning Coaches -- \$170,743; Partnership for Children (Kansas City) -- \$199,998; Purdy R-II School District -- \$143,829; Republic

R-III School District -- \$148,289; and Seneca R-7 School District -- \$74,393.

Douglass Community Services, Inc. - Hannibal and St. Joseph Youth Alliance were approved for an AmeriCorps State Planning Grant, both in the amount of \$15,000.



## calendar

November 2	General Election
November 11	Veterans Day State Offices Closed
November 25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday State Offices Closed
December 24	Christmas (observed) State Offices Closed
December 31	New Year's Day (observed) State Offices Closed
January 5	93rd General Assembly-1st Regular Session Convenes
January 10	Inauguration Day
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day State Offices Closed

## state of employment

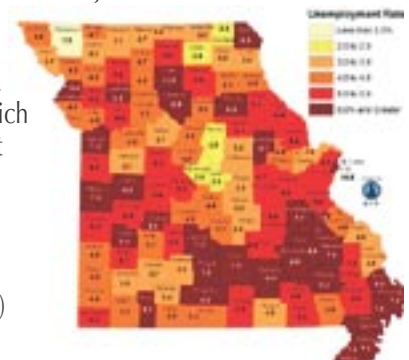
Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up a tenth of a point to 5.6 percent in September while employment increased robustly by 10,400 jobs, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development. That unemployment rate is slightly lower than the 5.7 percent rate of a year ago.

Not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment in Missouri went down to 5.4 percent in September from its summer highs of 5.7 percent in August and 5.8 percent in July. The unadjusted rate was also 5.4 percent in September of 2003.

On the other hand, non-farm payroll employment grew by 10,400 to 2,718,800 jobs, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since bottoming out in July 2003, Missouri's economy has added 45,100 jobs, an increase of 1.7 percent, which is ahead of the nation's growth rate of 1.35 percent for that period.

Some of September's jobs rebound came from school employment, which returned to more normal levels after some irregular movement in the past few months. More favorable weather conditions boosted construction employment by 2,200 jobs. Professional and business services added 2,100 jobs, on balance. Employment in financial activities was up by 1,900, and other services employment increased by 1,500 jobs.

Over the past year, employment has grown by 39,100 jobs (unadjusted) or 1.5 percent.



## Holdens promote Missouri continued from page 1

commerce and academic support to expand trade and investment between several Midwestern states and China.

"We are competing in a global economy and it is essential that we work together with Missouri companies and organizations to ensure we form partnerships not only in China but all of Asia," Holden said. "China's economic growth has averaged more than 8 percent the past five years and will be the largest market in the world by 2015."

As part of the trip Holden also visited Japan, where he participated in the annual meeting of the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo with Ambassador Howard Baker and U.S. Conference Chairman James Thompson. Several Midwestern governors, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas, Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio, and Gov. Jim Doyle of Wisconsin were also present.

Executives from a number of major companies doing business in the United States participated in the meeting.

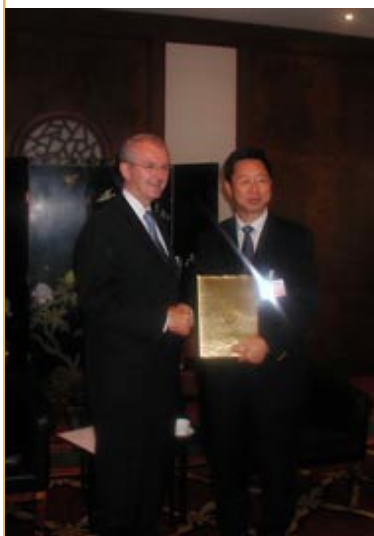
In addition, Gov. Holden took the opportunity to promote Missouri's growing bioscience industry when he addressed attendees at the JETRO BioLink Forum in Tokyo.

The Governor also took part in several other meetings with top executives from major Japanese companies.

During the past three years Holden has had an opportunity to meet with a number of Japanese business executives on various occasions, including at meetings of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in New York, the Japanese External Trade Organization, and at the annual meetings of the International Biotechnology Association.

"Over the years I have developed good relationships with many Japanese business leaders on behalf of the State of Missouri," said Holden. "The economy of the future must be conducted in a global environment and in order to be competitive, Missouri must continue reaching out to new markets across the world where there are clear growth trends."

The trip was financed by the Hawthorn foundation, a privately funded foundation to assist the state in economic development activities.



## Women's Council presents check to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Cheryl Grazier, executive director of the Missouri Women's Council, recently presented an \$8,885 check to Bruce Jenkins of Show-Me Healthy Women on behalf of the Council and the Friends of the Missouri Women's Council.

The check presentation was made in recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month during the Breast Cancer Wellness Symposium at Lake Ozark on October 2.



Funds come from the sale of special breast cancer awareness license plates that were first made available in October 2002 through legislation signed by Gov. Bob Holden. The legislation enables proceeds raised by the sales of the special

license plates to be used to provide breast cancer services to Missouri women who are uninsured or underinsured.

Show-Me Healthy Women, formerly the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Project, collaborates with the Department of Health and Family Support Division to provide free breast and cervical screening services to eligible low-income, underinsured or uninsured Missouri women aged 35-64.

Since the plates became available, more than 200 license plates have been sold.



For more information about the license plate program, contact the Missouri Women's Council at 573-751-0810 or log onto their web site at [www.womenscouncil.org](http://www.womenscouncil.org).

## Northwestern Region WIB receives worker training funds

The Workforce Investment Board of Northwestern Missouri has received \$200,000 in Dislocated Worker federal funds from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD). The funding will be used to provide re-employment training to workers affected by the closing of Mead Corporation.

The funds were requested by the Northwest Region Workforce Investment Board to supplement Dislocated Worker funds that have been obligated for other layoffs in the Northwest Local Workforce Investment Area.

Mead closed its St. Joseph facility in August, laying off about 400 employees in the process. The additional federal funds may be used for individual referrals to classroom training.

Workers and businesses interested in learning more about the benefits available through the federal grants should call DWD at 1-800-877-8698.

# 22nd Annual Governor's Workforce Development Conference Highlights

Hundreds of workforce development professionals, business leaders, and state and local government officials from across the state gathered to exchange ideas, experiences and perspectives about Missouri's labor force and explore the important links between economic development, education and employment at the 22nd Annual Governor's Conference on Workforce Development.

The conference was held October 6-8 at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach. "Economic Development, Education and Employment: Missouri's Strategic Solutions for the 21st Century" was this year's theme.

Governor Bob Holden delivered the keynote address and presented the Individual Achievement and Harlan "Mac" McGinnis Awards on October 6.

The second day of the conference featured Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League Inc., at the keynote luncheon, which was followed by the Workforce Excellence Awards Ceremony.

John Bryant, the founder, chairman and CEO of Operation HOPE, Inc. spoke at the closing general session.

In all there were 27 breakout sessions, which offered information on topics such as system-wide reforms that will improve a community's economic and workforce development success; effectively working with critical resources to ensure stronger integration; measuring a program's

return on investment; best practices to help the job seeker have lasting success and workforce credentialing.

The conference also featured a number of exhibits, including a technology resource center demonstrating the division's newest e-tools: Missouri Toolbox, Missouri Education and Career Hotlink and [GreatHires.org](http://GreatHires.org) - the state's new job matching website.



Marc Morial, National Urban League Inc.

## Harlan "Mac" McGinnis Workforce Professional Award

Gov. Holden presented the first-ever Harlan "Mac" McGinnis Workforce Professional Award to two individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the customers, businesses and communities served by Missouri's Workforce Development System.

Recognized were Melanie Corporon, director of Career Services at Missouri Valley Community Action Agency in Marshall and Lea Ann Gatzemeyer, employment and training director at the West Central Missouri Community Action Agency in Appleton City.

The award was established to honor the memory of McGinnis, a longtime workforce professional who made significant contributions to Missouri's workforce development system over his lifetime. McGinnis worked in the West Central Region (Sedalia area).

## Workforce Excellence Awards

The Workforce Excellence Awards recognized excellence in leadership and innovation throughout Missouri's workforce development system in the three areas of this year's conference theme: economic development, employment and education.

Leadership in Economic Development: Midwest Data Center, Inc. of Rock Port

Innovation in Economic Development: Sullivan County Economic Development Initiative - Premier Foods of Milan

Leadership in Employment: Bentley Industries LLC of Mexico

Innovation in Employment (two award winners): Canam Steel Corporation of Washington and Gilster-Mary Lee Transportation Project of Cape Girardeau and Park Hills

Leadership in Education: Profit in Education of St. Joseph

Innovation in Education: Texas County Technical Institute of Houston



## Holden honors Individual Achievement Award winners

Governor Bob Holden presented Individual Achievement Awards to 14 workforce system customers from each of the state's workforce development regions at the Governor's Conference on Workforce Development. The award winners were honored for their efforts in successfully working with Missouri's workforce development system partners to reach employment and/or training goals while overcoming significant obstacles.

## 2004 Individual Achievement Award Winners:

Central Region and overall Statewide: Clair Allen of Caledonia

East Jackson County Region: LeeAnn Trisler of Independence

Jefferson-Franklin Region: Rosella Smith of Arnold

Kansas City Area Region: Betty Allen of Olathe

Northeast Region: Stacy Lineberry of Bevier

Northwest Region: Jeffrey Wisdom of St. Joseph

Ozark Region: Sanchali Sen of Fenton

South Central Region: Kenneth Duncan of West Plains

Southeast Region: Shannon M. White of Cape Girardeau

Southwest Region: Della Eileen Hamlin of Joplin

St. Charles County Region: James Willfred of Wentzville

St. Louis City Region: Bryan Sutton of St. Louis

St. Louis County Region: Dawn Talley of St. Louis

West Central Region: Nicole Evans of Sedalia

# First MODESA project receives approval

On Oct. 26, the Missouri Development Finance Board approved financial assistance for Kansas City's KC Live! project, making it the first project approved for funding under the Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act.

The board voted unanimously to support a recommendation from the Missouri Department of Economic Development to fund the project under MODESA.

"We have completed a thorough review of this application and are providing a positive recommendation to the board," said DED Director Kelvin Simmons. "We have had ongoing discussions with the city of Kansas City for several months and believe that we have provided due diligence on behalf of the citizens of Missouri.

"There are, however, some issues where we will need further information and my recommendation outlines several safeguards that must be addressed before we can issue a final certification. But we believe these issues can be worked out over a period of time so this project can move forward."

The Kansas City Live! project encompasses part of the core downtown area, which has been on the decline in recent years. The overall project will cost more than \$320 million and will complement other redevelopment projects being planned for Kansas City.

Through the MODESA funding, the state will provide approximately \$119 million over 25 years to the project.

The Missouri Downtown Economic Stimulus Act was approved by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Bob Holden in 2003. The legislation is designed to facilitate the redevelopment of downtown areas and the creation of jobs by providing for funding of public infrastructure.



## Public invited to offer input on state community programs

The Missouri Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Missouri Housing Development Commission, the Department of Health & Senior Services, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Mental Health, will conduct a series of public hearings to assess the State's Action Plan needs for 2005.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the State of Missouri to publish an annual "Action Plan" outlining the use of HUD funds for the following programs run in the state: Community Development Block Grant Program,

HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), and Continuum of Care/McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Funds.

The public is invited to examine the draft Action Plan, which will be available at various public libraries, regional planning commissions, community action agencies, and state agencies. Individuals can either send written comments or attend one of six public hearings that will take place in November. During the public hearings, each program will be discussed and proposed changes will be reviewed.

The hearing schedule is as follows:

**November 3** - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Carthage Public Library, 612 Garrison Ave., Carthage

**November 4** - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Mountain View Community Center, 125 W. 1st Street, Mountain View

**November 5** - 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
DAEOC office, 99 Skyview Road, Portageville

**November 9** - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Governor Office Building, Room 470, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City

**November 9** - 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Macon City Council Chambers, 106 W. Bourke, Macon

**November 10** - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Albany Community Center, 200 W. Bethany, Albany

Written comments are welcome and will be accepted until December 15, 2004. Comments should be submitted to Andy Papen, CDBG Program, PO Box 118, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The final version of the FY-05 Action Plan will be submitted to HUD by February, and funds will be made available at the beginning of the FY-05 program year, April 1, 2005.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Pierce City awarded additional disaster relief funds

Pierce City in Lawrence County has received additional state funds to help complete numerous recovery projects stemming from the tornadoes that swept through the area in the spring of 2003.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved a \$252,300 grant through the Community Development Block Grant program for Pierce City. The funds will come from monies set aside for the CDBG disaster fund.

Governor Bob Holden presented the award to Pierce City Mayor Mark Peters in a ceremony in Jefferson City on September 9th.

The funds will cover a number of projects including recovery costs for the old State Armory, additional repair of sidewalks in the downtown area, completion of the new fire station, completion of the new senior center, completion of the new Barry-Lawrence Library, repair of sewer system, and upkeep of temporary fire station until a new one is completed.

## Weld Racing to expand, create more jobs in KC

The Missouri Department of Economic Development announced the approval of development tax credits that will facilitate the expansion of Weld Racing in Kansas City. The company, which held its grand opening in April, plans to make further investment in its facility and create 100 additional jobs by next summer.

DED officials approved up to \$450,000 in development tax credits, as requested by the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City (EDC). The tax credits will help offset a donation made to the EDC by Weld Racing and will leverage the company's expansion.

Weld Racing is located at 3601 Bennington in Kansas City. The company produces forged alloy

wheels for racecars, off-road trucks, luxury pickups, sport-utility vehicles, motorcars, hot rods and motorcycles.

## McCown Gordon expands headquarters in Kansas City

State tax credits will help facilitate the clean-up and redevelopment of a property located at 416-422 Admiral West and 441 East 6th Streets in Kansas City.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved up to \$96,000 in remediation tax credits through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program for the redevelopment of this property by McCown Gordon Construction, LLC. In addition, the company has been awarded Brownfield tax benefits up to \$76,200 annually for up to four years.

The owners of McCown Gordon intend to redevelop the site into its headquarters. The site is about .77 acres on two contiguous parcels of land. The owners plan to redevelop an underutilized 28,000-square-foot industrial building at 422 Admiral into office space. It is anticipated that the project may create up to 40 new jobs.

McCown Gordon is a fast-growing company and has outgrown its existing facilities. Owners determined the site on Admiral met their needs.

The project is eligible for assistance from the Brownfield Redevelopment Program in part because it was accepted into the Department of Natural Resources Voluntary Cleanup Program.

## State grant funds study of Whiteman Air Force Base

A state grant will help fund a baseline study of Whiteman Air Force that will enable Sedalia and surrounding communities the opportunity to explore economic development opportunities.

The Department of Economic

Development awarded a \$52,000 grant for this study through the Community Development Block Grant program to Sedalia. The project will also benefit all of Pettis County as well as Johnson County.

Community leaders within a 50-mile radius of the base have formed the Whiteman Area Leadership Council. The organization plans to use the funds to finance a study prepared by a consulting firm. The study is expected to present a comprehensive list as well as recommended actions that the communities should pursue in order to take advantage of the presence of the base.

## Iowa-based manufacturer will bring jobs to Clarence

A state grant will help fund improvements to a vacant industrial facility in Clarence so an aluminum casting manufacturer can locate in the rural Shelby County city. As a result, the company will invest approximately \$2.5 million and create 70 new full-time jobs within two years.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to the city of Clarence. The funds, used in combination with cash and in-kind services from the city, will be used to make facility improvements and to purchase and construct a heat-treating furnace necessary for the location of Fairfield Aluminum Company (FALCO). The city currently owns the facility and will lease it to FALCO.

FALCO, based in Fairfield, Iowa, produces commercial grade aluminum castings for companies like John Deere, Caterpillar, General Electric, Cummins Engine, Ford Motor Company and Peterbilt Truck. With sales growing more than 30 percent in 2004 and forecast to grow by another 20 percent in 2005, the company

needs to expand its capacity. The facility in Clarence was selected over several sites in Iowa.

Workers at the Clarence facility will perform secondary machining/trimming and heat-treating operations on parts currently produced in the Fairfield, Iowa facility.

## Precision Aero Services will expand in Nevada

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has awarded a \$500,000 Industrial Infrastructure Grant through the Community Development Block Grant program to Nevada. The grant will pay for infrastructure improvements needed for the expansion of Precision Aero Services, an aircraft parts company. The company will invest \$1.5 million and create 55 new jobs.

Proposed improvements include a new airport terminal for Nevada, replacing the existing one that lacks adequate space, is poorly insulated, has no electronic surveillance, has structural issues and does not provide technological features needed for corporate travelers. Since Precision Aero's clientele consists of aviation companies, the Nevada airport is an important tool and must provide adequate runway and airport provisions to help the company successfully expand.

## MISSOURI ENTERPRISE

Missouri Enterprise is the official publication of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Submit your articles to: Missouri Enterprise, P.O. Box 1157, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

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